



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Louisiana Recovery Office
1 Seine Court
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
LIVINGSTON PARISH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 11
OLD FOURTH WARD SCHOOL (FIRE STATION ADDITION)
INDEPENDENCE, LIVINGSTON PARISH, LOUISIANA
*FEMA-1603-DR-LA***

Introduction

As a result of damages from Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was authorized under a Presidential disaster declaration (FEMA-1603-DR-LA) to provide Federal assistance to designated disaster areas in Louisiana. The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (PL 93288), Section 406, authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program to provide financial and other forms of assistance to State and local governments to support response, recovery, and mitigation efforts following Presidentially declared disasters.

In accordance with 44 CFR Part 10, FEMA's regulations to implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared. The purpose of the EA was to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction of an addition to the Livingston Parish Fire Protection District No. 11 (LPFPD) fire station building, and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Proposed Action

The proposed action is for the construction of a building addition at the rear of the existing LPFPD No. 11 fire station building, so as to provide needed firefighter training, storage and meeting space and other important public safety functions. The new addition would consist of an approximately 1,500sf building and include a communications room, training space for firefighter personnel, meeting space for firefighter personnel and members of the public, and interior storage space for fire trucks. The new facility would be climate controlled with a new air conditioning system, and include a new water line, parking lot and driveway. Ground disturbing activities would be limited to those areas needed to level and construct the foundation, stage construction materials, install utilities, and construct associated driveway and parking areas.

Findings

FEMA has evaluated the proposed project for significant adverse impacts to water resources (wetlands, floodplains and other waters), coastal resources, biological resources, cultural resources, air quality, hazardous materials and environmental justice. During the construction period, short-term impacts to air quality are anticipated. All short-term impacts require conditions to minimize and mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas.

Conditions

The following conditions must be met as part of the implementation of the project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize federal funds:

- Applicant is required to comply with all state, federal and local laws and regulations. In accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations, the applicant is responsible for acquiring any necessary permits and or clearances prior to the commencement of any construction related activities.
- New construction must be compliant with current codes and standards. Per 44 C.F.R. § 9.11(d)(6), no project should be built to a floodplain management standard that is less protective than what the community has adopted in local ordinances through their participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. The Applicant is required to coordinate all construction activities with the local floodplain administrator regarding floodplain permit(s) prior to the start of any activities, and remain in compliance with formally adopted local floodplain ordinances. All coordination pertaining to these permit(s) should be documented and provided to the local floodplain administrator, to the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (LA GOHSEP), and to FEMA as part of the permanent project file. Per 44 CFR § 9.11(d)(9), mitigation or minimization standards must be applied, where possible.
- Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act: If human bone or unmarked grave(s) are present with the project area, compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (LA Revised Statutes 8:671 et seq.) is required. The applicant shall notify the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction where the remains are located within twenty-four hours of the discovery. The applicant shall also notify FEMA and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology at 225-342-8170 within seventy-two hours of the discovery.
- Inadvertent Discovery Clause: If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) are discovered, the applicant shall stop work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The applicant shall inform their Public Assistance (PA) contacts at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation (HP) staff. The applicant will not proceed with work until FEMA HP completes consultation with the SHPO, and others as appropriate.
- Project construction may involve the use of potentially hazardous materials (*e.g.*, petroleum products, cement, caustics, acids, solvents, paint, electronic components, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, treated timber), and may result in the generation of small amounts of hazardous wastes. Appropriate measures to prevent, minimize, and control spills of hazardous materials must be taken and generated hazardous and non-hazardous wastes are required to be disposed in accordance with applicable Federal, state and local regulations.

- If hazardous constituents are unexpectedly encountered in the project area during the proposed construction operations, appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation and management of the contamination should be initiated in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations.
- A Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit may be required in accordance with the Clean Water Act and the Louisiana Clean Water Code. If required to do so by LDEQ, the Applicant shall require its contractor to prepare, certify, and implement a construction storm water pollution Protection plan approved by LDEQ to prevent sediment and construction material transport from the project site. The Applicant shall comply with all conditions of the required permit. All coordination pertaining to these activities should be documented and copies forwarded to the state and FEMA as part of the permanent project files.
- The Applicant should ensure that best management practices that meet the LDEQ permitting specifications for storm water discharge regulated under §§ 401 and 402 of the CWA are implemented in order to minimize indirect impacts (erosion, sedimentation, dust and other construction-related disturbances) to the nearby waters of the United States and well defined drainage areas surrounding the site, and include the following into the daily operations of the construction activities: silt screens, barriers (*e.g.*, hay bales), berms/dikes, and or fences to be placed where and as needed. Fencing should be placed for marking staging areas to store construction equipment and supplies as well as conduct maintenance/repair operations.
- To reduce potential short term effects to air quality from construction related activities, the contractor should use BMPs to reduce fugitive dust generation and diesel emissions. The contractor should water down construction areas when necessary to minimize particulate matter and dust. To reduce emission criteria pollutants, fuel-burning equipment running times should be kept at a minimum and engines should be properly maintained.
- Construction traffic should be closely monitored and controlled as appropriate. All construction activities should be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) requirements.

Conclusion

The results of these evaluations, as well as consultations and input from other federal and state agencies, are presented in the EA. Based on the information analyzed, FEMA has determined that the implementation of the proposed action would not result in significant adverse impacts to the quality of the natural and human environment. In addition, the proposed project does not appear to have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (per 44 CFR Part 10) and the proposed project as described in the EA may proceed.

Public Review and Comment

The Draft EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at: <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/search/OldFourthWardSchool>. The Draft EA will also be available for public review at the Livingston Parish Main Library at 20390 Iowa Street, Livingston, LA, 70754 and the Albany-Springfield Branch at 26941 LA Highway 43, Hammond, LA 70403. A legal notice will be posted in the local newspapers, *The Livingston Parish News*, on the following dates: May 15, 18 and 22, 2014, and *The Baton Rouge Advocate* on the following dates: May 20, 21 and 22, 2014. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA will become final and the initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice.

Approval:

Kevin Jaynes
Regional Environmental Officer
Region VI

Date

Thomas M. Womack, Director
Louisiana Recovery Office
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA

Date